

# *City of Socorro*

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## **City Council Election March 4**

### **Councilors, Judge to be Elected**

On Tuesday, March 4, Socorro voters will go to the polls to select four City Council members and one Municipal Judge.

The candidates for City Council, as listed on the ballot, are:

Ward I	Ward II
David J. Locklar	Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez
Gary Jaramillo	Richard A. Lopez
Toby Jaramillo	David R. Jones, Jr.
	Bala Settu
Ward III	Ward IV
George I. Foulfont	Samuel Pino
Jean Louis Fraissinet	Peter D. Romero
Michael Olguin, Jr.	Mona L. Ferrell
	Pablo Paul Lopez
	Michael Sefie Anaya

Frances P. Cases is running unopposed for Municipal Judge.

Though Socorro is divided into precincts for voting purposes, every councilor is running “at large” so voters may vote for one candidate in every ward.

### **City Consolidates Precincts and Returns to Paper Ballots**

Following a mandate from Governor Richardson, the residents of Socorro will be voting on paper ballots in the upcoming City Council election.

Voters will be asked to sign the voting rolls, based on the lists of eligible voters supplied by the County. They will then be given a paper ballot, sent to a booth to mark their choices by filling in the oval next to the name of the candidates they select. Voters will then insert their ballots into the M100 electronic vote tabulator. The M100 is a machine that counts the votes for each candidate, while retaining the paper ballot should a recount be required. If a voter marks more than one oval in a race, the tabulator will reject the ballot and the voter will be given a new ballot. The spoiled ballot will be marked as such, accounted for and placed in a “spoiled ballot envelope” for future verification if needed..

“When you’re voting on paper ballots, more people can be voting at one time. You won’t have to wait in line for a machine,” says Municipal Clerk Pat Salome.

The City has consolidated the precincts into 6 polling places. According to Salome, this will save the city a little money in the number of poll workers who must be hired.

Precincts 8, 9-IN 10-IN, 17, 18-IN and 23-IN will vote at Parkview Elementary. Precincts 5-IN and 6 will vote at Finley Gym. The polling place for precincts 1 and 7 is the GRADS building (Torres School). Precincts 2 and 4 vote at the Main Fire Station at 202 Fisher Street, and

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Precinct 3-IN will vote at the Socorro Schools administration office, 700 Franklin.

If you are not sure of your precinct number and polling place, you may call City Hall at 835-0240 and Stephanie Saavedra, Bobbi Gonzales or Pat Salome can tell you where you are registered to vote.

Automark voting machines with touchscreen, braille-labeled buttons, and earphones will be available for voters who are visually impaired or need oral instructions or instructions in Spanish.

### Early and Absentee Voting

Though early voting ended at 5:00pm on Friday, February 29, those who requested an absentee ballot may return them to City Hall until 7:00 pm Tuesday, March 4.

Early and absentee votes are considered a precinct separate from the regular voting precincts. The ballots are held in a locked box at City Hall until the workers for this absentee precinct gather at noon on voting day. The workers check all documentation for the absentee ballots: from the request for the ballot, to the sending of the ballot, to its return. All of these things are logged and correspond to a request and ballot register. Once a ballot envelope has been



Stephanie Saavedra logs a request for an absentee ballot.

validated by the precinct board, the outer envelope is opened and the ballot deposited in a container. When all the ballots are in the container, they're mixed together and then

the inner envelope is opened and the ballots are then run through the tabulator. The total from the absentee precinct then is added along with the other precincts to determine the winners.

### Soccer Fields and Rodeo Arena to be Built Near National Guard Armory

Plans for a new Convention and Rodeo complex to be built on Highway 60 near the National Guard Armory will include 8 soccer fields and a partially covered rodeo arena with grandstand.

The soccer fields and rodeo grounds are expected to be completed in 2009. The design work for the soccer fields will be contracted out, but the majority of the landscaping will be done by City workers. The rodeo arena contract will be put out to bid.

"We're trying to get in the niche market of juvenile rodeos, get the families out to the rodeo," says Mayor Ravi Bhasker. "Especially with Socorro right in the crossroads of New Mexico, this could be well used for small towns like Carrizozo, Deming, and Belen."

The money for the project has come from a variety of sources: \$330,000 from 2007 state appropriations, \$40,000 from the Governor's Rodeo Commission to promote rodeo in New Mexico, and \$40,000 in matching funds from the city.

A concept drawing of the project is available for viewing at City Hall.

### Employment Anniversaries:

#### 15years

Benny Anaya

#### City Council:

Dan Armijo

Gordy Hicks

David Jones

Ernest Pargas, Jr.

Jean Fraissinet

Gary Jaramillo

Donald Monette

Chuck Zimmerly

Ravi Bhasker, Mayor  
Pat Salome, City Clerk